


## Urban Ag in the Burbs



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WA APA Conference  
Oct. 3, 2013

## Story from Ferguson, MO

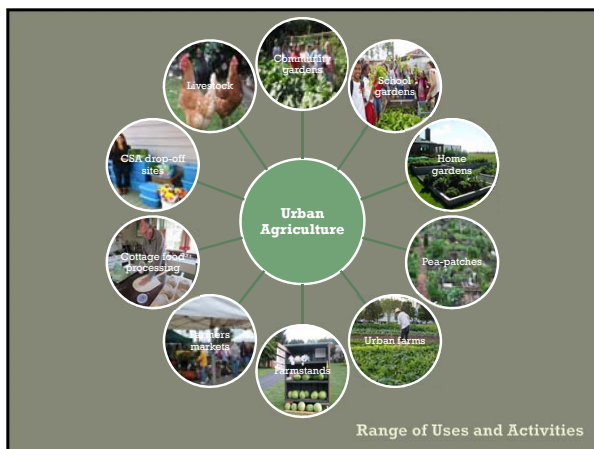


<http://www.sundancechannel.com/blog/2012/05/growing-your-own>

## What is urban ag?

## How are they different?

<p>RURAL/ PERI-URBAN</p>  	<p>URBAN</p>  
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## BENEFITS

- Food access
- Health
- Local economic development
- Public safety
- Community building
- Education
- Bridge urban-rural divide



### Code Barriers

- Missing
- Unclear
- Prohibitive

### Code Barriers

- Definitions
- Use standards
- Site standards
- Approval process

### Potential Code Revisions

- Code Audit



### Potential Code Revisions

- Definitions- Include, clarify
- Use standards- Make it easy to grow/sell/process in zones
- Site standards- Allow edibles, structures, signage, etc
- Approval process- Lower or eliminate requirements

### Example: Flint, Michigan

Ordinance	Barrier
Definitions	No definitions
Appearance Standards	Could prevent hoop houses and greenhouses
Site Plan review	All structures must go through review
Off-street parking and loading	Nothing about agriculture
Animals and Fowl	Does not allow poultry in residential zoning. Allows animals only at slaughterhouses
Fences	Unclear, maybe not appropriate
Nuisances	Could limit composting
Parks	Bans picking

### Example: Kansas City, Missouri







# The Federal Way Story


## Background

Food Landscape Assessment




## Background

Health Disparity



The Food Landscape in Federal Way, WA Page 7 of 21

## Background

Healthy Food Access



Source: Public Health Service & King County, King County GIS Center, U.S. Census 1999, Metropolitan State Dept. of Social and Health Services and Dept. of Health  
Map created by FoodLink in partnership with the Department of Health and Human Services and Public Health - Seattle & King County

## Background


Federal Way has many citizens engaged in urban agriculture.

- Federal Way community gardens
- Urban farmers
- Home gardeners
- Farmers market



## The ask

City staff and community began to realize that the code was insufficient. Applied for technical support from Forterra.



## Actions

- 2011 Code interpretation as a place holder
- 2012 Applied for technical assistance
- 2013 Comp Plan Policies Adopted in January

**2.8.5 Healthy Food Access: Urban Agriculture**

**Amended Land Use Element:**

- Directs staff to develop regulations
- Supports Farmers markets
- Promotes urban ag , through existing and new partnerships

Purpose  
Land use and transportation have a strong influence on growing healthy and active citizens by creating food resources such as farmers markets, community gardens, pop-up farms, and urban farm parks. Public health benefits include increased food access, improved nutrition, and increased physical activity. The purpose of this element is to create and encourage healthy food and active living opportunities through a range of activities including, but not limited to, planning, permitting, marketing, and distribution of food in urban areas. Urban agriculture is a growing opportunity for community health and economic development. Federal Way's diverse population, its location, urban agriculture activities are consistent with the community's planning, transportation, economic, and other goals. Resources will be allocated to support these activities.

Goal  
LEUP Provide access to healthy food resources for all Federal Way residents.

Policy  
LEUP Establish development regulations that allow for healthy food resources as a permitted use in public and private spaces, including community gardens, school gardens, home gardens and urban farms.

Goal  
LEUP Encourage and support community garden organizations that are accessible to all residents.

Policy  
LEUP Establish development regulations that allow for farmers markets as a permitted use in public and private spaces, including urban farms.

LEUP Encourage farmers markets to accept public benefits such as food stamp electronic benefit cards, accept credit cards, and accept cash payments.

LEUP Coordinate with local and regional agricultural organizations to promote local farmers markets.

Goal  
LEUP Promote urban agriculture activities through marketing and community partnerships.

Policy  
LEUP Encourage and support the use of public lands for urban agriculture activities by establishing conditions for use.

LEUP Where appropriate, support joint use agreements for public or privately owned land for use as urban farms, community gardens, and pop-up farms.

LEUP Coordinate development, planning, and other funding sources to support development of urban agriculture development.

## Partnership

City of Federal Way  
Forterra  
Urban Food Link  
Kristina Cerise





## Community Engagement

- Engaged a broad range of stakeholders at two community meetings.




**FORTERRA**

## Advocacy

Advocacy training and city meetings



## Advocacy – Update!

- Planning Commission:
  - Codes passed through to the next step
- Land Use and Transportation Committee:
  - Next week!



## Proposed Regulations

- Summary of provisions:
  - Definitions are established
  - Urban Ag. Uses are allowed in every zone
  - Administrative Review Process
  - A management plan is required
  - In residential zones:
    - Urban ag. uses greater than 10,000 SF must provide notice
    - Farmers markets are allowed as temporary uses only
    - Greater restrictions for on-site sales
    - Considers cottage food operations as a home occupation

## Proposed Regulations

### Summary of provisions:

- Accessory structures are considered
- Signage is addressed
- Perimeter landscaping requirements can be waived



## Putting it on the ground

- Increased community interest has been generated
- Microenterprise business idea is being looked into
- School district is expanding garden programs
- Farmers market is looking to expand
- Forterra prepared a GIS public lands assessment to serve as a resource



## Public Land Assessment



## Your City

## Questions?



## Resources

- [FHRC Food Policy Blueprint](#)
- [Food Access Policy and Planning Guide—University of Washington Northwest Center for Urban Communities \(2011\)](#)
- [Integrating Food Policy in Comprehensive Planning: Resources for the City of Seattle. Final Report Regional Council \(2012\)](#)
- [Planning to Build Inclusive Local Government Plans & Policies to Build Healthy Food Systems in the United States-SUNY, Buffalo\(2011\)](#)
- [Planning for Food Access and Community-Based Food Systems: A National Scan and Evaluation of Local Comprehensive and Sustainability Plans. American Planning Association, Hodgson \(2012\)](#)
- [Urban Agriculture Audit. City of Milwaukee](#)
- [Turner Environmental Law Clinic \(2011\) Urban agriculture: a sixteen city survey of urban agriculture practices across the country. Atlanta, Georgia. Author](#)
- [University of Missouri Extension, Urban agriculture: Best Practices and Contributions.](#)